

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez's (TX-20) vote for the Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act today is a major step towards the creation of new jobs and economic growth. This bipartisan legislation passed with an overwhelming vote of 406-15 and will now move to the Senate for approval.

"Small businesses are the engine of the American economy and the driving force turning our nation around," said Congressman Gonzalez. "This legislation is forward thinking and will help fuel our nation's entrepreneurial spirit, while providing the tools and resources small businesses need to succeed and thrive

Entrepreneurial Development programs are a wise investment in our economy and in 2008 alone are credited with helping to create 73,000 jobs.

The legislation, part of our agenda to create jobs, marks the first major overhaul of the Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial development programs in a decade. It expands and improves some of the most successful programs, such as Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers and the Service Corps of Retired Executives. It also establishes, for the first time, a nationwide network of Veterans Business Centers to provide specialized entrepreneurial training and counseling to our nation's veterans.

"As a community made up of a large number of veterans and minority business owners, the expansion of programs set forward in the bill will significantly enhance San Antonio's economy and help create jobs," added Gonzalez. "In addition, we will enhance the benefits provided by the Recovery Act to assist small firms in securing capital, by helping to generate new lending and investment for small businesses. It's about creating jobs, and today we voted to move our nation in the right direction towards entrepreneurial development."

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